

Remarks:

The examiner has rejected all of the prior claims under Wilson, either as anticipated or as rendered obvious. The application respectfully disagrees. Wilson does not include "a first audio input" within the meaning of the pending claims. Rather, music is generated in the form of MIDI, which is merely prefabricated notes. Further, the mixer in the Wilson device is not a true mixer as it does not mix two audio inputs. For all of these reasons, each of the pending claims should be allowed.

The applicant additionally notes that the examiner has rejected claim 13 based on Young combined with Takao. The applicant, however, does not believe that these two references can be combined. There would be no motivation for a person skilled in the art to combine Young with voice suppressing means. Young has a MIDI source, which has no voice. For this additional reason, claim 13 should be approved. It is further noted that new claim 23, which adds the element of voice suppression means, should be allowed for these same reasons.

Regarding new claim 24, it further distinguishes Young and the other prior art in that it requires that the first audio input be configured to accept the audio signal from a stand-alone audio device. Young clearly does not have this feature because it accepts input from a ROM or IC chip, not a stand-alone device such as a CD player.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that all pending claims be allowed.

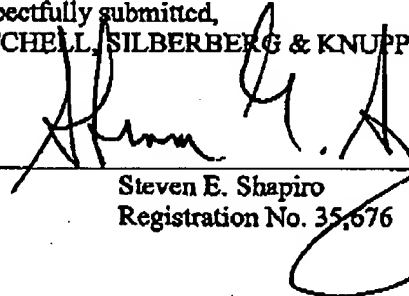
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Respectfully submitted,
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